Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A multiple item user preference information data structure for multi-media information provided from an information provider comprising:

single item user preference information for single items related to the multi-media information; and

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multiple items user preference information for multiple items formed by combining the single items.

2. (Original) The data structure according to claim 1, wherein the single item user preference information comprising:

a user preference item identifier which denotes the item to describe user's preference; and

an item preference level indicating the degree of user preference, corresponding to the user preference to the user preference item identifier.

3. (Currently amended) The data structure according to claim 1, wherein the multiple item user preference information comprising:

a user preference item identifier which is combination of single user preference items; and

an item preference level indicating the degree of user preference, corresponding to the user preference ~~to~~ of combinations of the user preference item identifiers.

4. (Previously amended) The data structure according to claim 2, wherein the item preference level is one of levels divided into a plurality of levels between levels preferred by a user and levels not preferred by the user.

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5. (Original) The data structure according to claim 1, wherein the single item user preference information and the multiple items user preference information are stored in non-volatile memory of a system installed for an information provider and/or an information user.

6. (Currently amended) The data structure according to claim 1, wherein the single item user preference information and the multiple items user preference information are stored in portable non-volatile memory ~~such as smart card~~.

7. (Currently amended) A method for providing multi-media information in which a multi-media is provided from the information provider to users in a user's desired environment, comprising:

setting user preference information for the multi-media information;

searching the multi-media information according to the user preference information; and

providing users with generated multi-media information according to the searching result,

wherein the user preference information comprises single item user preference information for single items related to the multi-media information and multiple items user preference information for multiple items formed by combining the single items.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the single item user preference information comprising:

a user preference item identifier which denotes the item to describe user's preference; and

an item preference level indicating the degree of user preference, corresponding to the user preference to the user preference item identifier.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the multiple items user preference information comprising:

a user preference item identifier which is combinations of single user preference items; and

an item preference level indicating the degree of user preference, corresponding to the user preference ~~to~~ of combinations of the user preference item identifiers.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein in the step of searching multi-media information, in case that there exist a single item and a multiple items together, a weight value is applied to each of the single item and the multiple items and the multi-media information is searched depending on the order of priority according to their weight value.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the user preference information is recorded in non-volatile memory of a system installed for the information provider or an information user.

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the user preference information is recorded in a memory of a system installed in portable non-volatile memory ~~such as smart card~~.

14. (New) A method of providing multi-media information, comprising:

providing a data structure of items;

associating a first weight value to a single one of said items; and

associating a second weight value to a group of a plurality of said items,

wherein said second weight value is assigned based on a user preference information for said group.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said data structure is a user preference description data structure representative of a multiple item user preference information of multimedia content.

16. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the multi-media information is provided from an information provider to users in a user desired environment.

17. (New) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

setting user preference information for the multi-media information;

searching the multi-media information according to said user preference information; and

providing users with multi-media information according to results of said searching.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said user preference information comprises single item user preference information for single items and multiple items user preference information for a group of multiple items.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said single item user preference information further comprises a user preference item identifier and an item preference level indicator.

20. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said multiple items user preference information further comprises a user preference item identifier and an item preference level indicator.

21. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said searching the multi-media information further comprises:

applying a weight value to said single one of said items;

applying a weight value to said group of a plurality of said items; and

searching the multi-media information depending on an order of priority according to said weight values.

22. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said user preference information is recorded in non-volatile memory of a system installed for an information provider or user.

23. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said user preference information is recorded in a memory of a system installed in portable non-volatile memory.

24. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said items include preference fields comprising at least one of genre, producer, production date, director, character, degree of special effects, actor and language.

25. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said second weight value of said group is independent of said first weight value of said single one of said items.

26. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said second weight value of said group is independent of individual weight values of said plurality of said items.

27. (New) A method of generating a multiple item user preference information data structure for multi-media information provided from an information provider, comprising:

setting single item user preference information for single items related to the multi-media information; and

setting multiple items user preference information for multiple items formed by combining the single items.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein setting the single item user preference information further comprises:

providing a user preference item identifier which denotes the item to describe user's preference; and

providing an item preference level indicating the degree of user preference, corresponding to the user preference to the user preference item identifier.

29. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein setting the multiple item user preference information further comprises:

providing a user preference item identifier which is combination of single user preference items; and

providing an item preference level indicating the degree of user preference, corresponding to the user preference of combinations of the user preference item identifiers.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the item preference level is one of levels divided into a plurality of levels between levels preferred by a user and levels not preferred by the user.

31. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the single item user preference information and the multiple items user preference information are stored in non-volatile memory of a system installed for an information provider and/or an information user.

32. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the single item user preference information and the multiple items user preference information are stored in portable non-volatile memory.

33. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the method is used in a system of filtering/searching multimedia contents.

34. (New) A computer accessible multimedia information stored on a computer readable storage medium, comprising:

a user preference description data structure representative of a multiple item user preference information of multimedia contents,

wherein the user preference description data structure comprises single item user preference information for single items related to the multimedia information and multiple items user preference information for multiple items formed by combining the single items.

35. (New) The computer accessible multimedia information stored on a computer readable storage medium according to claim 34, wherein the single item user preference information comprises:

a user preference item identifier which denotes the item to describe user preference; and

an item preference level indicating the degree of user preference, corresponding to the user preference of the user preference item identifier,

wherein the item preference level is one of levels divided into a plurality of levels between levels preferred by a user and levels not preferred by the user.

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36. (New) The computer accessible multimedia information stored on a computer readable storage medium according to claim 34, wherein the multiple item user preference information comprises:

a user preference item identifier which is a combination of single user preference items; and

an item preference level indicating the degree of user preference, corresponding to the user preference of combinations of the user preference item identifiers.